

## **Technology Innovation**



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## Topic Area: Technology Innovation

### Action Item

*Conduct demographic analysis of innovative technology sites.*

### Technology Innovation Office

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As of the end of fiscal year 1993, innovative remediation technologies have been selected at 263 Superfund National Priorities List sites. Ninety of these innovative remediation technology sites are included in a site inventory with demographic data. Technology Innovation Office (TIO) analyzed the demographic information on these sites to determine whether any correlation exists between site demographics and innovative technology selection.

Minority and low-income sites were identified by considering the racial/ethnic population within a one-mile radius of the site, and comparing to the overall representation of groups in the state containing the site. The analysis indicated no correlation between the selection of innovative treatment technologies and the racial, ethnic, and income characteristics of the populations around these sites. That is, the proportion of minority and low-income sites is essentially the same for the universe of sites choosing innovative technologies as it is for all sites.

### Completed Milestones

5/94      Conducted demographic analysis.

### Contact

John Kingscott, (703) 308-8749

### Action Item

*Continue efforts with the Small Business Administration to promote small businesses that focus on environmental technologies.*

### Technology Innovation Office

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TIO and the Office of Research and Development (ORD) entered into an interagency agreement (IAG) in September 1993 to form a partnership between EPA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) on new technologies and EPA programs, regulations, and policies at Small Business Development Center (SBDC) offices around the country. The goals of the partnership, announced in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by EPA and SBA, are to:

- Promote the formation of small businesses that focus on environmental technologies;
- Assist technology developers in beginning and enhancing their business ventures;
- Assist potential customers of new technologies in identifying alternative technologies;

- Create incentives to purchase environmentally superior technologies; and
- Assist small businesses with compliance by making regulatory information available for business.

These efforts could help foster more minority business in distressed areas, thereby promoting economic redevelopment.

In an effort to provide mechanisms for small businesses to improve access to capital, EPA (Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response) and SBA undertook a finance study, which was released at the White House Conference on Sustainable Technologies in December 1994. This finance study focused on two categories of small businesses: developers and users. The study identified the size of developers' and users' financing needs and barriers to obtaining financing. The study also presented policy alternatives that focused on using existing programs (SBA and EPA programs) to avoid creating any new funds or programs. One of the policy alternatives presented for financing developers was the concept of an "Enviro Technology Bank of the US."

This bank would be an SBA's Small Business Investment Company (SBIC). SBICs, licensed and regulated by the SBA, are privately owned and managed investment firms. SBICs make venture capital investments in small businesses using their own funds plus funds obtained by borrowing at favorable rates with an SBA guarantee and by selling their preferred stock to SBA. The SBICs provide equity capital, long-term loans, debt equity investments, and management assistance to small businesses. EPA and SBA are continuing to meet with the Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, and senior White House staff to discuss future steps.

TIO also has performed a needs and capability assessment on environmental education of small businesses through the SBDC network. In terms of this task, environmental education includes: environmental programs, regulatory and compliance issues, pollution prevention, recycling and remediation technologies, and technology transfer. This project assessment was developed under the IAG between SBA and EPA. Both agencies will use this assessment to develop resources and training for the SBDC network.

EPA and SBA have reviewed the preliminary findings of the SBDC's needs and capabilities with respect to environmental education. SBA's SBDC Office and EPA's TIO; Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances; Office of Enforcement of Compliance Assurance; Office of Solid Waste; and ORD will review these preliminary findings and determine the need for subsequent inquiries. These offices also will consider addressing the SBDC's needs by packaging environmental resource information for SBDC distribution.

### **Completed Milestones**

9/93	IAG signed by EPA/SBA.
11/93	MOU signed by EPA/SBA.
12/94	Finance study completed.
3/95	Preliminary findings of the SBDC's needs and capabilities reviewed.

### **Contact**

Michael Forlini, (703) 308-8825